

B2 17. A network management system according to claim 10, wherein said management server and said routing means include means for performing mutual authentication and means for encrypting data. --

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

The present Amendment amends claims 1-8, cancels claim 9 and adds new claims 10-17. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-8 and 10-17.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner alleges that the specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. The Examiner is informed that the originally filed specification was reviewed and numerous amendments were made to such originally filed specification. These amendments were incorporated into the specification by the filing of a Substitute Specification on August 9, 1999. The Substitute Specification was reviewed to uncover any other minor errors that required corrections. No other errors were found. Therefore, the Examiner's cooperation is respectfully requested to point to any errors the Examiner may be aware of so that such errors can be immediately corrected to expedite prosecution of the present application. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matchefts (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,656) in view of Hansen (U.S.

Patent No. 5,838,907); claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matchefts and Hansen and further in view of Crichton (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,716) and Reid (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,226); claims 4, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matchefts and Hansen and further in view of Antur (U.S. Patent 6,243,815); and claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Antur.

The various rejections under 35 USC §103(a) of claims 1-8 primarily based on Matchefts taken in combination with either one or more Hansen, Crichton, Reid and Antur fails being that Matchefts is not an appropriate reference to be used for anticipatory or obviousness type purposes to reject the claims of the present application. Specifically, the present application claims a priority date of May 19, 1998 which predates the effective date of September 10, 1998 of Matchefts. In order to perfect Applicants claim of priority a Certified copy of the priority document, upon which Applicants based their claim of priority of May 19, 1998, was filed in the present application on May 19, 1999. To further perfect Applicants claim of priority a Sworn English Translation of said priority document is now being prepared and will be filed once completed.

Therefore, in light of the above, the above described rejections under 35 USC §103, primarily based on the Matchefts, are rendered moot and reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Even if Matchefts could be used for obviousness type purposes to reject the claims of the present application, Matchefts fails to teach or suggest numerous features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Matchefts fails

to teach or suggest the use of meta-level information or the generating of a plurality of pieces of set-up information based on the meta-level information. Matchefts merely discloses updating configuration information for each network device when a network manager receives state variable information and the received state variable information does not match the stored state variable information. This teaching of Matchefts is quite different from the present invention as recited in the claims. Accordingly, the teachings of Matchefts does not anticipate or render obvious the features of the present invention as recited in claims 1-8 whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record namely, Hansen, Crichton, Reid and Antur.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Antur. As indicated above, claim 9 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, the present application adds new claims 10-17. New claims 10-17 recite many of the same features shown above not to be taught or suggested by any of the references of record namely, Matchefts, Hansen, Crichton, Reid and Antur whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Also, noted above, Matchefts is not an appropriate reference to be used for anticipatory or obviousness type purposes to reject the claims of the present application. Therefore, Matchefts cannot be used in a potential rejection with respect to new claims 10-17.

In light of the above, particularly the rendering moot of the 35 USC §103 rejections of claims 1-8, Applicants hereby submit that the subject matter recited in claims 1-8 and 10-17 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-9.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-8 and 10-17 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-8 and 10-17 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.37212X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A network management system comprising a plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner and a management server managing said plurality of network devices, said management server comprising~~including~~:

means for generating a plurality of pieces of ~~interrelated~~ setup information to be used for said plurality of network devices on which settings are to be made, said plurality of pieces of setup information being generated to maintain consistency; and

means for confirming consistency of ~~interrelated~~ said setup information set up in said plurality of network devices.

2. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein said management server further comprises:

means for retrieving meta-level setup information from each of said plurality of pieces of ~~interrelated~~ setup information; and

means for retrieving said ~~interrelated~~ plurality of pieces of setup information set up in said plurality of network devices.

3. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,
wherein each of said interrelated plurality of pieces of setup information includes
tunneling setup information.

4. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,
wherein: said network device is a firewall; and
wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes
setup information related to access control for said firewall.

5. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,
wherein: said network device is a server; and
wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes an
access privilege policy of said server.

6. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,
wherein: said network device is a computer executing a network application
periodically exchanging data; and
wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes
setup information related to said network application.

7. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,
wherein: a firewall is disposed between said management server and said network
device;
wherein said management server includes means for distributing

routing means for routing settings from setup information for said firewall; and
wherein said distributed routing means includes means for setting up
said setup information in said network device.